

Application No. 10/695,467

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 7 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 11, 12, and 14-16 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating virtual machines among clients on a first network, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing an array of one or more host servers, each host server having a plurality of virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots available for allocation;
 - (b) receiving client requests for allocation of virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots; and
 - (c) assigning virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots to clients, the virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots being distributed among the host servers in a second client network according to a load-balancing algorithm; and
 - (d) copying selected files from a file repository of requested virtual machine slots to a memory location assigned to a specific client.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving client requests further includes receiving the requests at a single IP address.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of assigning virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots further includes assigning each virtual machine slot to only one client.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, and further comprising the step of associating each client with a unique session identifier.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, and further comprising the step of maintaining client access to its assigned virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots for the duration of the session.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 5, and further comprising the step of monitoring the network for receipt of data from additional clients.
7. Cancelled.
8. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein and residing on a server to permit allocating virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots among clients on a first network, said control logic comprising:
 - (a) computer readable program code means for providing ~~two or more host servers~~ an array of at least one host server, each host server having a plurality of virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots available for allocation;
 - (b) computer readable program code means for receiving client requests for allocation of virtual ~~machines~~; and machine slots;
 - (c) computer readable program code means for assigning virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots to clients, the virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots being distributed among the host servers in a second client network according to a load-balancing algorithm; and
 - (d) copying selected files from a file repository of requested virtual machine slots to a memory location assigned to a specific client.
9. (Original) The computer program product of claim 8, wherein the means for receiving client requests further includes means for receiving the requests at a single IP address.
10. (Original) The computer program product of claim 9, and further comprising means for associating each client with a unique session identifier.

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11. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 10, and further comprising means for maintaining client access to its assigned virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots for the duration of the session.
12. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 11, and further comprising means for monitoring the first network for receipt of data from additional clients
13. Cancelled.
14. (Currently Amended) A system for allocating virtual machines among clients on a first network, comprising:
 - (a) a plurality of client computers connected to the first network;
 - (b) an array of one or more host servers, each server having a plurality of virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots available for allocation; and
 - (c) a processor connecting the first network and the host servers, said processor including
 - (i) a port for receiving client requests for allocation of virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots and for providing connectivity between clients and allocated virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots,
 - (ii) an output connected to the host servers, and
 - (iii) means for distributing the allocated virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots among the host servers in a second client network according to a load-balancing algorithm.

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15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the host server ~~computer~~ includes a directory containing a copy of the virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots that have been assigned to the client computer.
16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the host server ~~computer~~ includes a plurality of directories, each directory containing a copy of the virtual ~~machines~~ machine slots that have been assigned to a client computer, ~~and~~ with each client computer having access only to that directory.